

within named Edwin Cooper, served with and during the period of this Agreement at the expense of the said firm in connection with the firm in Finance abruptly closed. The beneficial influence which Mr. McLeary Brown had established

The following is extracted from the China

COMMERCIAL CONCESSIONS.

The foundation of improved communication by great railway developments, in important regions, has been laid.

The boundaries of Hongkong have been extended.

Wachow and Nanning on the West River, Santow (Samsah) on the coast of Peking, and Chiap-wau-tao at the head of the Linsing Gulf

had been made in April against the interests of French influence in a province which had been taken, commercially as well as geographically, the hinterland of Hongkong.

Exclusively with England for the trade of Yun-nan is being pursued actively in other respects, the Chamber having guaranteed a loan of

Three additional Ports have been opened in Korea. The Chinese Government has promised to open the Ports of Ningpo, Shanghai, and Peking to foreign trade. Great Britain, on the other hand, has obtained the right to open the Ports of Yunnan, and the Red River, to Yunnan.

The principle that the Chief of the Maritime Customs shall always be a British subject, as stipulated in the Convention with China, exceeds that

Commerce can, however, rarely be dissociated from political considerations. In the case of a Minister at-Peking, the

stronger Powers, the two Governments must depend largely on the political factors.

POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The political changes which were set in motion by the Japanese invasion of Korea, in 1894, have progressed with startling rapidity. The effect of that invasion was to lay bare, in the minds of the world, the political weakness of the Japanese Empire, and the necessity for a re-organization of administrative responsibility.

It was the result of the Japanese invasion of Korea, in 1894, that the Japanese Government was forced to negotiate the Treaty of Shimonoseki, which was signed on September 17, 1895. This treaty, which was the result of the Japanese victory in the Sino-Japanese War, was the first of a series of treaties which have been signed between the two Governments since that time. The first of these treaties was the Treaty of Shimonoseki, which was signed on September 17, 1895. This treaty, which was the result of the Japanese victory in the Sino-Japanese War, was the first of a series of treaties which have been signed between the two Governments since that time.

Negotiations were conducted by the British and Chinese Governments, and the Chinese Government invited aggression--something, in fact, resembling a political vacuum, into which the great Western Powers chiefly interested threw themselves with a haste that threatened collision. The crisis was precipitated by the seizure of K'angpooh and adjacent islands by the Japanese.

under review has been spent in efforts to regularise and re-arrange the situation compatibly with the various interests engaged.

Both these contracts have been the subject, since, of keen controversy, on the ground,

surrounding 50 kilometre zone. The port itself of mortgage over the section of the line outside the Great Wall. A protest by the British

he since been declared null and void, and that the Government is now being indemnified by the mission to collect the regular Treaty Dues, on goods passing inland, at given frontier stations within the zone.

FRONT ARTURHE

"Art. 0 of the Cassini Convention had promised the 'loss of Kinnokod' compensation to Russia, and this compensation was delayed "in order to obviate the chance of exciting the jealousy and suspicion of other Powers." Art. 10 says that the "loss of Kinnokod" was to be "Talien-ling" (the great Port of Tientsin).

Minister against the signature of the Lu Huan treaty was disregarded by the Tsungli-Yamen, and the Chinese Government planned for its disregard and bad faith by the execution of certain other Railway Concessions. As the contract gives a French right of mortgage and foreclosure over a line penetrating the heart of the Yangtze Valley, it needs to be kept in view as a similar principle. It is carried out.

cession for the Southern extension of this Great Trunk line—from the banks of the Yangtze opposite Hankow to Canton; and Sir Claude MacDonald has obtained finally the concession

Various other concessions of less political, but of considerable financial importance, have

Russia in the retrocession of Liaotung. "The precise form of reward was the practical admission of Russia's suzerainty over the Port Arthur, Tallienwan, and the adjacent waters," with so much surrounding territory as might be necessary for purposes of defence, were leased to Russia nominally for 25 years; in other words, the concession that Port Arthur should be regarded as "a naval port for the sole use of Russian and Chinese men-of-war," but—that a portion of Tallienwan should be "a commercial port freely open to all merchant vessels of all nationalities." An agreement concluded in August, 1896, had given Russia (under the guise of the Russo-Chinese Bank) the right of constructing railways in the two Northern provinces of Kirin and Heilongchuan, with the reservation that privilege to herself in the Southern province of Shantung. The new Convention obliterated this reservation, and

been made. The Russo-Chinese Bank has undertaken to make a branch from Cheongting (a city on the Lu-Ha line, in Peochih) to Tallienwan, the capital of Shantung.

A Syndicate composed of British and Italian interests has obtained extensive mining rights in Shantung, coupled with the right of railway outlet to the Han river at Siang-yang.

A British subject, Mr. C. W. Morgan, has entered into a concession having for its object the development of mines and concomitant railways in Shantung. France is understood to have protested that this arrangement is inconsistent with the understanding to seek exclusive privileges in South-West China, concluded between the two Governments in 1894; but the protest appears strained.

The tendency in Korea, as well as in China, has been towards deducing the historical precedent of the "Treaty of Commerce" from a natural con-

sequence of geographical conditions that Japan has concerned itself with the South; and the

res at the entrance to the Gulf of Pecheli could not be viewed with indifference by a Power largely interested in the trade of North China. H.M. Minister might protest against the concession, but China was powerless without the promise of effective support from the withdrawal of British naval war from Port Arthur, at the height of the crisis convinced her that no such support would be forthcoming.

not a retreated before Russia, and the best left for courses of construction but it may be doubted whether funds will be forthcoming, immediately,

The history of the subsequent twelve months has been one of effort to retrieve the situation.

occupying the rival port of Weihaiwei. A

POLITICAL ISSUES

Events fraught with consequences so momentous were related, naturally, with profound anxiety by the members of an Association so deeply interested, in varying ways in the future of the Far East. The course of events had not been unforeseen. The Committee had ventured, indeed, to predict their immenseness more than once since the collapse of China before the

Law. officer of the Indian Army, Major Bower, has been commissioned in the meantime to raise a

THE YANGTZE REGION.

pute with Russia about Kuldja, in 1880, during the Russo-Chinese war, and the Russo-Japanese war, about Fengking in 1884, and Russian interest could be conciliated, the position of antagonism which has now arisen

and which recently during the war with Japan (Great Britain required from China, in February, a promise that she "would never alienate any territory in the provinces adjoining the Yangtze to any other Power, whether under lease, mortgage, or any other designation" (*v.* p. 68). The provision has been taken to signify more concretely meaning the donation of spheres

obviated, and the permanent menace implied in her occupation of Port Arthur warded off. The apprehensions excited, and certain precautions which suggested themselves, were expressed to H.M. Government in letters dated 31st March, 14th April, and 9th July, 1899, which were given publicity in the *Herald*, and which had sympathy; it is believed, of public opinion, British interests consist, it is held, in up-

veys now, unquestionably, to the public mind an impression that British interests are politic-

(Sd) ally unassailable in the Yangtze Region.
 FORMER.
 Solicitude about the mainland opposite to Formosa has led Japan to obtain a similar assurance in regard to Fokien.
 THE WU KWANG AND YUNNAN.
 France ceded from the Tungst Yunnan, in 1885, a large people respecting the provinces of Kwangsi and Tongchur (p. 382). She has since

CHINESE FINANCE.
The Amoy indicated by Li Hang.

KOWLOON.—Great Britain has carried into effect their long-considered purpose of extending the frontier of Kowloon.

CHONGKING.—There still remained a small stretch of coast which aggressive Powers might be tempted to attack. Italy proposes to take it under her protection, by requiring a lease of San-mun

that she will extend her grasp over the adjacent territories from the assumed limit of the Yangtze.

KOREA.
Ruzsica agreed with Japan, in April, to "re-
cognize definitely the sovereignty and entire
independence of Korea," such Power pledging
itself to abstain from direct interference in the
country.

